

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine, the washing machine including a tub for holding wash liquid and a basket for holding articles to be washed, and defining an annular space between the tub and the basket, said additive dispensing system comprising:

a top cover;

a reservoir removably coupled to said top cover and configured to contain an additive, said reservoir comprising a removable reservoir cover having an upper siphon fitting extending downwardly from said reservoir cover and a lower siphon fitting removably coupled with said upper siphon fitting;

a water valve coupled to said reservoir;

a conduit coupled to said reservoir cover and extending into the annular space, said conduit providing fluid communication between said reservoir and the annular space, and configured to deliver a diluted additive into the annular space; and

a controller coupled to said water valve, said controller configured to:

activate said water valve, said water valve configured to introduce water into said reservoir to dilute the additive and raise a fluid level of the diluted additive in said reservoir to a level to initiate a siphoning action of the diluted additive to fill and flush said reservoir, said conduit configured to deliver the diluted additive to the annular space;

automatically adjust a dispense time to dispense the diluted additive corresponding to at least one of a selected wash cycle of a plurality of wash cycles and a user adjustment made during the selected wash cycle; and

dispense the diluted additive to the washing machine at the adjusted dispense time by delivering the diluted additive into the annular space through said conduit.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said conduit comprises a siphon tube.

4. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said reservoir cover is removably coupled by snap fit engagement to an upper side of said top cover and said conduit comprises a siphon tube coupled to said removable cover.

5. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said reservoir comprises an overflow port.

6. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said top cover comprises an opening therethrough, said opening in fluid communication with said reservoir for introducing the additive into said reservoir.

7. (currently amended) A washing machine comprising:

a tub for holding wash liquid;

a basket positioned within said tub for holding articles to be washed, an annular space defined between said tub and said basket; and

an additive dispensing system comprising:

a top cover;

a reservoir removably coupled to said top cover and configured to contain an additive, said reservoir comprising a removable reservoir cover having an upper siphon fitting extending downwardly from said reservoir cover and a lower siphon fitting removably coupled with said upper siphon fitting;

a water valve coupled to said reservoir;

a conduit coupled to said reservoir cover and extending into the annular space, said conduit providing fluid communication between said reservoir and the annular space, and configured to deliver a diluted additive into the annular space; and

a controller coupled to said water valve, said controller configured to:

activate said water valve, said water valve configured to introduce water into said reservoir to dilute the additive and raise a fluid level of the diluted additive in said reservoir to a level to initiate a siphoning action of the diluted additive to fill and flush said reservoir, said conduit configured to deliver the diluted additive to the annular space;

automatically adjust a dispense time to dispense the diluted additive corresponding to at least one of a selected wash cycle of a plurality of wash cycles and a user adjustment made during the selected wash cycle; and

dispense the diluted additive to the washing machine at the adjusted dispense time by delivering the diluted additive into the annular space through said conduit.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said conduit comprises a siphon tube.

10. (previously presented) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said reservoir cover is removably coupled by snap fit engagement to an upper side of said top cover and said conduit comprises a siphon tube coupled to said removable cover.

11. (previously presented) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said reservoir comprises an overflow port.

12. (previously presented) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said top cover comprises an opening therethrough, said opening in fluid communication with said reservoir for introducing the additive into said reservoir.

13-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine, the washing machine including a tub for holding wash liquid and a basket for holding articles to be washed, and defining an annular space between the tub and the basket, said additive dispensing system comprising:

a reservoir cover comprising a plurality of tabs extending from said reservoir cover, said plurality of tabs configured to engage a top cover of the washing machine and an upper siphon fitting extending downwardly from said reservoir cover;

a reservoir configured to contain an additive and removably coupled to said reservoir cover, said reservoir comprising a lower siphon fitting coupled with said upper siphon fitting;

a conduit coupled to said reservoir cover;

a water valve coupled to said reservoir; and

a controller coupled to said water valve, said controller configured to:

activate said water valve, said water valve configured to introduce water into said reservoir to dilute the additive and raise a fluid level of the diluted additive in said reservoir to a level to initiate a siphoning action of the diluted additive to fill and flush said reservoir, said conduit configured to deliver the diluted additive to the annular space.

26. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said conduit extends into the annular space such that the diluted additive is not directly applied to the articles within the basket.

27. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said controller is further configured to calculate a dispense time to dispense the additive.

28. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 27, wherein said controller is further configured to:

monitor an elapsed wash cycle time;

compare the elapsed wash cycle time to the calculated dispense time; and

dispense the additive if the calculated dispense time is reached.

29. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 27, wherein said controller is further configured to determine whether a user has adjusted a total wash cycle time while a wash cycle is operating.

30. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 29, wherein said controller is further configured to calculate a new dispense time to dispense the additive based on the adjustment to the total wash cycle time by the user.

31. (cancelled).

32. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said controller is further configured to calculate a dispense time to dispense the additive, the dispense time based on a total wash cycle time.

33. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising a memory, wherein said controller is further configured to calculate a dispense time to dispense the additive, the dispense time proportional to a total wash cycle time stored in said memory.

34. (previously presented) An additive dispensing system for a washing machine in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said controller is further configured to activate said water valve and initiate the siphoning action regardless of whether an additive is present within said reservoir.